

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel original Claims 1 & 3; Substituted Claim 3 filed November 29, 2002, and substituted Claim 1 filed December 27, 2002, and Claims 4 and 5 were deleted December 27, 2002 (IPER).

1. (Original) A sock comprising a toe section that covers the toes and in which a bulge section is formed in the middle part in the length direction of said toe section and wherein said bulge section is formed in a location such that it covers the bottom half of said toes.

2. (Original) The sock of claim 1 wherein said bulge section is formed such that it gradually becomes thinner from the side of the large toe toward the side of the little toe.

3. (Original) The sock of claim 1 wherein said bulge section is formed such that it has an arc shape that protrudes downward.

4. (Previously Canceled)

5. (Previously Canceled)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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6. (Currently Amended) The sock of ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~  
claim 1 wherein said toe section is formed such that it is  
divided into a first insert section into which the large toe is  
inserted, and a second insert section into which the other toes  
are inserted, and where bulge sections are formed in both the  
first insert section and second insert section.

7. (Currently Amended) The sock of ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~  
of claim 1 wherein said toe section is formed such that it is  
divided into five insert sections for each individual toes, and  
where bulge sections are formed for each of the five insert  
sections.